

### Welcome to the November Edition of the BioSense Bulletin

Since the last update, we have exhibited at the ASTHO and ISDS conferences and prepared a recap and overview of the PHIN Conference. Also in this issue, you can read about a training collaboration between BioSense and Georgia State University.

Last month's BioQuestion asked how you prefer to receive training. The number one response was **Web-based training**. The number two response was the regional, 1-day training method.

This issue's BioQuestion is below. Simply click on the button below to link to it. Remember, this is your publication and we are always looking for ways to incorporate your preferences.

BioQuestion

### BioSpotlight

#### Leveraging partnerships to enhance training efforts

Malcolm Knowles, a pioneer in the field of adult education, identified basic characteristics adult learners possess. Among those characteristics Knowles identified, relevancy and practicality are two that support the new BioSense training approach.

BioSense is the nation's real-time electronic biosurveillance system designed to detect and monitor disease outbreaks and bioterrorism events. As the program has been updated and enhanced, there is on-going need for training new and experienced users. A re-evaluation of training needs was conducted in order to ensure training was offered at the right frequency and designed for various experience levels.

As a result of identified needs, an opportunity arose to forge collaboration with Georgia State University (GSU) in order to design interactive and engaging training materials that would increase the utility of the BioSense application. Two online training courses will be produced by instructional design students at GSU. The courses will offer new and experienced users opportunities to practice skills related to BioSense and will be designed in short units to accommodate the learner's schedule and learning preferences. The partnership also creates an opportunity for GSU graduate students to design a product that will be implemented in a real-world environment upon completion.

Another training product resulting from a partnership is the Patient Traceback tip sheet and video simulation. Based on information gathered from BioSense users, brief and simple tools for this topic were created. Both the tip sheet and the video simulation are designed to assist public health and hospital partners in re-identifying a patient, using the trace back feature of the BioSense application when a public health investigation is necessary. Pilot reviewers from Arizona, Oregon, and Georgia volunteered their time to review materials and provide suggestions for improvement. The wealth of information obtained from the reviewers not only enhanced the final product, but also served to strengthen relationships and promote communication with BioSense users. A target date of November 2007 has been established for release of the Patient Traceback tip sheet and video simulation. Both will be available within the BioSense application in the help section, as well as, on the BioSense website.

Partnerships will continue to be one of the primary sources to accomplish BioSense training goals and drive future product development. Upcoming projects currently being discussed include collaboration with an academic group who is pioneering training for bioterrorism and emergency preparedness in 3D virtual environments; pod casts for quick updates on new application releases; and more engaging webinars designed to involve the learner's critical thinking skills. A new training sub-page will soon be added to the BioSense website to alert users about these tools and other training related news.

For more information about the training tools mentioned here or other training requests please email Lourdes Martinez-Cox at [LMartinezCox@cdc.gov](mailto:LMartinezCox@cdc.gov).



To receive the MS Word version of this bulletin, e-mail [biosenseusers@cdc.gov](mailto:biosenseusers@cdc.gov).  
If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.

National Center for Public Health Informatics



### BioBytes

#### PHIN Conference Overview

This year, the sessions at the Fifth annual Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference centered on the theme, "Harmonizing Public Health Voices in National Health IT." Attendees went to trainings and workshops that explored all aspects of this theme, from states' use of PHIN interoperability standards to aid in electronic reporting of data to using BioSense's national biosurveillance capabilities to support state and local public health. Each conference session was organized into clearly defined tracks with listed experience levels so that attendees could tailor their conference planning to suit their professional roles and experience levels. For example, the "Introduction to PHIN" session was part of the management track and rated at the introductory level.

The PHIN Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 27–29, 2007. CDC and its partners, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), the National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO), the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), and the National Association of Public Health Information Technology (NAPHIT) hosted approximately 1,200 people at the CNN Center in Atlanta, Georgia, for three days of networking, tutorials, and workshops.



**Poster Presentation at PHIN conference**



**Dr. Robert Martin speaks at PHIN conference**



**Dr. Jerry Tokars and colleague at PHIN conference**

#### BioSense and Biosurveillance-specific Sessions

##### *Update on BioSurveillance Activities*

Staff from the BIC and other CDC BioSense staff provided an update of the BioSense program. They discussed the success of the jurisdictional webinars, the use of BioSense data for surveillance of gastrointestinal illness, and the real-time split feed between Sierra Providence Health Network, El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District, and BioSense. Presenters were Lisa Hines, CDC; Gabriel Rainisch, Constella Group; Jerome Tokars, CDC; and Debra Davis, El Paso City County Health and Environmental District.

Click here to view Dr. Jerry Tokars presentation:

<http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/files/TokarsPHIN2007.ppt>

##### *PHIN 101: Introduction to PHIN*

Attendees received a comprehensive overview of PHIN including its purpose, goals, and available resources for developing interoperable information systems. The moderators also talked about recent changes in PHIN and new collaborative approaches to architecture, requirements, and systems development. Presenters were Lynn Gibbs-Scharf, CDC; Tim Morris, CDC; and Mark Winarsky, CDC.

#### BIOSTATS

BioSense continues to grow. Since the last Bulletin, 103 facilities in North Carolina and 49 facilities in Michigan went live, bringing the total to 523 hospitals sending data to BioSense.

#### CONTACT US

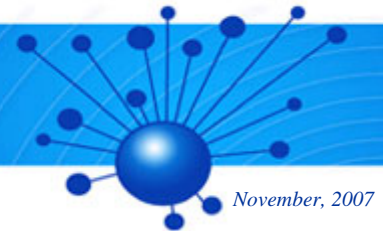
Please use this [email link](#) to contact us if you have any comments or questions regarding the BioSense Bulletin.



To receive the MS Word version of this bulletin, e-mail [biosenseusers@cdc.gov](mailto:biosenseusers@cdc.gov).  
If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.

**National Center for Public Health Informatics**





### BioBytes cont.

#### *HIEs and Public Health*

Attendees learned about CDC's activities around using health information exchanges (HIEs) to accelerate health situational awareness and expand the BioSense network. Presenters discussed BioSense and PHIN and described how using interoperability standards set forth by PHIN helped enable automated reporting of data to New York State's Health Emergency Response Data system. Presenters were Dr. Robert Martin, CDC; Mary Lerchen, CDC; Henry Rolka, CDC; Timothy Carney, Northrup Grumman; Robert Rolfs, Utah Department of Health; Ivan Gotham, New York State Department of Health; and Lamot DuPont, THINC RHIO.

Click here to view Dr. Robert Martin's presentation: [http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/files/Martin-PHIN\\_Conf\\_0807.ppt](http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/files/Martin-PHIN_Conf_0807.ppt)

#### *Training for PHIN-Compliant Applications*

Attendees of this session learned about the different methods for PHIN and BioSense Training. Presenters included Lourdes Martinez-Cox, CDC; and Patricia Jordan, DHSS Communicable Disease Service.

Click here to view the Lourdes Martinez-Cox's presentation:

[http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/files/BioSense\\_Soup\\_to\\_Nuts\\_Training-PHIN\\_2007\\_final.ppt](http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/files/BioSense_Soup_to_Nuts_Training-PHIN_2007_final.ppt)

#### **BioSense Staff Exhibit at ASTHO Conference**

BioSense staff traveled to St. Louis, Missouri October 2-5 to exhibit at the annual meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Health Organizations.

The theme of the conference was "Pursuing Excellence in Public Health" and centered on exploring opportunities for greater collaboration to strengthen the infrastructure of public health; providing an interactive platform for health officials, local representatives, foundations, nonprofit organizations, private industry and academia to collaborate and promote dialogue; and, fostering opportunities for networking among state and government health officials and key partners.

A featured session at the ASTHO Conference was "A Leader's Perspective on Health" with Newt Gingrich. In this session, Speaker Gingrich outlined his plan for a "21<sup>st</sup> Century Intelligent Health System," a prevention-based system of care which is based on the individual, promotes choice and will move America to a position of having 100% insurance coverage.

#### **BioSense Featured at Syndromic Surveillance Conference**

BioSense staff attended the International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) annual conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 10-12, 2007.

ISDS is an international organization that supports population health by advancing the field of disease surveillance. The society provides an educational and scientific forum where epidemiologists, informatics specialists, public health practitioners, health care providers, statisticians, and others can work together to explore and address population health monitoring across institutional and professional boundaries.

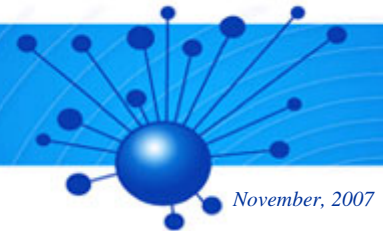
Over 350 ISDS members other public health stakeholders attended the conference had the opportunity to learn about current syndromic surveillance activities taking place at federal, regional and local levels. The information presented allowed conference participants to explore the role of syndromic surveillance in planning, detecting, and responding to health events. BioSense staff presented six posters and six abstracts on their latest research featuring disease surveillance systems and biosurveillance analysis methods. A selection of these presentations and posters presented at the conference are available on the BioSense webpage at [www.cdc.gov/biosense](http://www.cdc.gov/biosense).



To receive the MS Word version of this bulletin, e-mail [biosenseusers@cdc.gov](mailto:biosenseusers@cdc.gov).  
If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.







### BioBytes cont.

#### NEDSS-BioSense Collaborative

Over the last several months, CDC's National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) team has worked closely with the BioSense program to identify best practices and to explore ways to leverage its infrastructure to support state-based surveillance. The goal of the project is to send an electronic laboratory result, in a standard-based HL7 v2.5 format, from a hospital system to a state-based electronic disease surveillance system (e.g., NEDSS Base System or any NEDSS compliant system) consistent with CDC Public Health Information Network standards.

The BioSense program may serve unique purposes for traditional public health surveillance, but its users tap data from some common sources. The richness and quality of the existing data stream and the infrastructure built into biosurveillance may prove beneficial for a state-based electronic disease surveillance system, especially if an electronic laboratory data feed does not exist between a hospital and state-based system.

The outcome of this project will contribute to the information science and technology of building an interoperable environment among public health partners. For more information, please contact Scott Danos, NEDSS Team Lead, at [csd3@cdc.gov](mailto:csd3@cdc.gov).

### BioSchedule

#### ○ BioSense Training and Orientation Sessions

- **Monday, November 26, 2007, 1:00–2:30 pm (EDT)**  
URL to join session:  
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=M5HPZC&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>  
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589  
Participant Code: 2229244
- **Monday, December 10, 2007, 1:00–2:30 pm**  
URL to join session:  
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=B8H3X3&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>  
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589  
Participant Code: 2229244
- **Thursday, December 20, 2007, 1:00–2:30 pm**  
URL to join session:  
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=7HCW73&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>  
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589  
Participant Code: 2229244
- **Tuesday, January 8, 2007, 1:00–2:30 pm**  
URL to join session:  
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=B96SN5&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>  
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589  
Participant Code: 2229244



To receive the MS Word version of this bulletin, e-mail [biosenseusers@cdc.gov](mailto:biosenseusers@cdc.gov).  
If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.

National Center for Public Health Informatics





### BioSchedule cont.

- **Upcoming Conferences**
  - **American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)**  
Chicago, IL – November 10–14, 2007  
<http://www.amia.org>
  - **National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP)**  
Phoenix, AZ – January 10–12, 2008  
<http://www.naemsp.org/>



To receive the MS Word version of this bulletin, e-mail [biosenseusers@cdc.gov](mailto:biosenseusers@cdc.gov).  
If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.

**National Center for Public Health Informatics**

